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# THE CANADIAN RAILROADER

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10 cents a copy, \$3.00 a year

## PROFITEERING IN COAL

In this part of Canada we are particularly interested in American anthracite coal, which we must have and which is at present costing us \$20 a ton.

Senator Edge of New Jersey and Senator Calder of New York, representing the United States Senate Committee on Reconstruction, began an inquiry into the anthracite coal industry in New York last week.

According to the Associated Press, the following facts were developed in the course of the hearing:

New England states and New York are each taxed \$17,000,000 annually in "excessive coal prices."

Company producers are selling coal at \$8 f.o.b. mines, while "independents" are charging \$15 a ton.

Coal prices were raised from \$1 to \$1.60 a ton last April in "anticipation of wage increase to miners," WHICH FINALLY ONLY COST THE OPERATORS FROM 45 to 50 CENTS A TON.

Twenty-five big coal concerns in New York and other eastern cities are selling coal at mines from \$10 to \$15 a ton, when a fair price would be \$9.50.

Seven anthracite companies control about 75 to 80 per cent. of the entire hard coal output.

While the output of independent producers is only 25 per cent. of the entire anthracite production, more than 40 per cent. of the hard coal is being sold on the market at "excessive independent prices."

When you hear folks railing at the miners as responsible for the skyrocketing in coal, show them this.



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# ANALYZING ITALY'S SOCIAL AGITATION

If Labor Is Working a Revolution, This Is Being Done With So Little Violence That It Might Be Termed an Evolution.

A lot of interest has been created in Canadian Labor circles by the seizure of Italian factories by the workers and the subsequent settlement of the dispute on the basis of taking the workers into partnership. It has been difficult to make any satisfactory analysis from the news in the daily papers, and the difficulty has still further emphasized the need for an international news service to be owned and controlled by the Labor movement. The Railroader has shed what light it could on the Italian situation from time to time, and the following is another illuminating account, from the Italian correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, Boston, one of the mere handful of non-Labor daily newspapers in the United States and Canada broad enough to try to present news and views as seen by Labor as well as by other sections of a community.

THOSE watching from a distance the social agitation now going on in Italy should beware of magnifying or distorting conditions, of believing that Bolshevism is rife or the country on the verge of revolution, and similar alarmist rumors, which the personal observations of those living here, as well as the authoritative declarations of sane and responsible thinkers such as Senator Marconi, go to show as far from the truth. In the economic readjustment now taking place here the last few months have been eventful ones; and the two principal centres of movement have been the unions of the metal workers and the land workers. Both are strong organizations headed by vigorous leaders; the one by a man, Bruno Bruozzi; the other by a woman, Argentina Altobelli.

The latter, whose headquarters is Bologna, is the peasants' leader. Early in life she began trying to rouse the peasants to rebel against the hard conditions of their lives, at a time when day-laborers earned but 12 or 14 cents a day, and even that not all the year round. Later she continued her work, telling them they were unjustly treated, teaching them to read and write, trying to organize them into small groups.

## A Powerful Organization.

At first they came unwillingly; now her Land Workers Union has a membership of some 900,000. Almost single-handed she has built up this great organization for the improvement of the Land Workers' conditions; and since, out of a population in Italy of about 35,000,000, some 32,500,000 are occupied in, or derive their living from, agricultural pursuits, so vigorous a movement spreading in this class is of incalculable importance in the national life.

Bruno Bruozzi, whose centre is Turin, began as a workman. He was made secretary of his union, and went to Moscow to see conditions there. He conveys an impression of strength, energy, and audacity, and is one of the forces to reckon with in the Italian Labor struggle. A trade union official, he claims, for the workers and their organization and representatives "the first a

last word" on economic matters.

The importance of the outcome of the recent industrial crisis of the metal workers is considerable in its bearing on the whole Labor situation, and in the repercussion it is likely to have in other countries. Growing discontent among the workers culminated this past summer, when a struggle broke out between two great rival groups of manufacturers for control of the important Banca Commerciale.

## Output Was Increased.

As the bank shares leaped to extravagant figures on the Milan Stock Exchange, the public, and especially the workmen of the factories, watched this fight between millionaire capitalists in amazement; and the latter concluded that, if these had the wherewithal for such colossal gambling, it proved what profits had been made out of them, the workmen; and determined that henceforth these huge profits should not go into the pockets of a few capitalists and profiteers. So they occupied the factories, hoisting, with that touch of the melodramatic dear to Italians, their red flags, and began to run them themselves, maintaining excellent discipline, and increasing the output by a high percentage.

The owners appealed to Mr. Giolitti, who stood aside, declaring it no concern of the government's, and that they must handle their own affairs. The capitalists soon saw that as things were they lost everything, whereas, by concessions, they stood to save at least something; so they decided on capitulation, agreeing in most cases to take their employees into partnership, include their representatives among the directors, and give them the right of being informed as to the exact expenditure and profits of the business. The workmen accordingly lowered their flags and evacuated the factories; and, while details remain to be settled, the crisis seems over and the problem in a fair way to be solved.

## High Order of Intelligence.

The Italian working man is of a high order of intelligence; quick to face and assume responsibility once he understands a position and feels himself fairly treated and with

something to hope from his own efficiency and industry. A salient example of this was recently related by an employer who had two factories in different cities. The one claimed most of his attention; and, though he visited the other frequently, it was always languishing and unprofitable, and he was at his wits' ends; for, while not wishing to close down entirely, the trouble it gave outweighed any profits.

He accordingly made a bold venture. Calling the workmen together, he told them he would hand over the concern to them, continuing to provide raw material, pay wages, and so on; they were to run the factory on their own lines, and at the end of the year the profits would be divided. The factory immediately awoke to fresh life; no more unpunctuality, no more slacking; every man's business, in his own interests, was to maintain discipline and increase quantity and quality of output. Consequently at the end of the first year the owner's half of the profits considerably exceeded the whole profits of any previous year, there was no further trouble, and the business thrives and grows.

The spread of co-operative methods is a hopeful sign; and, if Labor is working a revolution in Italy, it is doing it, on the whole, with so little violence that it might be almost called an evolution. Sporadic outbursts, or the anarchical propaganda of a very small Extremist party, must not be taken as indicative of the feeling of the people as a whole; which, to those living in the country, seems singularly sound; and there seems every hope that the Italy which some 70 years ago emerged triumphantly from the throes of the "Risorgimento" and achieved its political unity, will pass victoriously through the present crises and attain to that better moral unity of justice and equity where the good of all shall be the good of each, and the good of each shall be for the good of all.

## A SIMPLE RULE.

An old lady, leaving church after a service which had been attended by a crowded congregation, was heard to say: "If everybody else would only do as I do, and stay quietly in their seats till everyone else has gone out, there would not be such a crush at the doors!"

EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS BY

The Hon. Wm. C. Edwards

TO THE

ROCKLAND EMPLOYEES

OF THE NOTED LUMBER FIRM

On the 23rd August, 1920

When they celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Firm of W. C. Edward & Co.

NOVEMBER 8, 1918, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the commencement of operations of the firm here; for it was on the 8th day of November, 1868, a cold, bleak morning, that I embarked on the old steamer Caroline, of the Ottawa Forwarding Company, at Thurso, where I had been formerly employed, and debarked at what is now the town of Rockland, having to-day, I understand, a population of about 4,000, with well-maintained streets, concrete sidewalks, three churches, three school-houses, one of which is a high school, numerous stores and shops, and many comfortable homes, the greater number of which are the private properties of the employees of the firm, a result arising from the fact that several years ago the firm made a survey of a considerable portion of its property and building lots were sold to the employees at nominal prices and lumber was supplied at low cost and on easy terms of payment, to facilitate houses being built. The firm also built a very considerable number of houses, which have always been supplied to actual employees at a nominal rental. So that with the two sawmills of existing proportions and the number of men employed not only here, but in Ottawa and other places, it must be admitted that great progress and development have been made, for the contrast is very considerable.

To illustrate: I arrived at McCaul's Point, what is now Rockland, that bleak November morning, single-handed and alone. Two families were the only occupants at the time, the James McCaul family and the Way family. These two small families composed the entire population of the immediate locality. The tools I carried with me on the steamer Caroline were two pick-axes and three spades. The first employees were William Way and Magloire Lariviere, and with my own hands and their assistance I dug and prepared the foundation for the first mill erected in Rockland. The erection of the frame of the mill was carried out by contract with James Erskine, to whom I will again refer herein. The machinery was obtained in Montreal and Ottawa, and the mill went into operation in May, 1869, and the total quantity of lumber cut that season was three million feet—a very small quantity as compared with the product which has been maintained for many years past. So the results of the operations of W. C. Edwards & Co., Limited, have placed the firm among the very limited few who have succeeded in the lumber business on the Ottawa, as compared with the very large number who have failed of success, the fact being that only from three to five per cent. of those who engaged in lumbering on the Ottawa have been successful.



# Railroad Unions Answer Attacks

Denial Made That They Seek a "Closed Shop"—Charge of Alliance With One Big Union Movement is Repudiated

Washington, D.C.

**C**HARGES made in a recent statement by W. W. Atterbury, vice-president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, to the effect that the railroad brotherhoods are seeking, in the United States, formation of the "One Big Union," and economic power by which they can force adoption of the Plumb Plan for government ownership and domestic operation of the railroads, were categorically denied in a statement issued last week by William P. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists.

Mr. Johnston, in his reply, accuses big financial interests of financing the Industrial Workers of the World and the One Big Union movement to break up the legitimate Labor movement, and he also charges that Mr. Atterbury and his associates hope to break up union organizations. The Atterbury attack on the brotherhoods, he intimates, was connected with an attempt to prepare the public for announcement that the Pennsylvania Railroad has disposed of its shops, a procedure which, Mr. Johnston says, is designed to evade the provisions of the Transportation Act with regard to railroad labor.

"Closed Shop" Not Sought.

"The 16 associated organizations have never asked for the 'closed shop,' and have no intention of doing so," Mr. Johnston asserts. "The desirability, not to say the necessity, for the 'closed shop' in certain lines of industry will appeal to any unprejudiced student, but what is necessary in one industry is not always necessary in another."

There is nothing to prevent railroad employers hiring non-union men if they choose, says Mr. Johnston. "The foregoing will be news to the average citizen, who has been 'fed up' on open shop propaganda. It will not be news to Mr. Atterbury, because among practical railroad men these things are matters of common knowledge."

A resolution for the closed shop was defeated by a practically unanimous vote, he says, at the convention of the Railway Employees Department of the American Federation of Labor.

"Now as to the 'One Big Union,' Mr. Atterbury knows our attitude on that question. He knows that instead of favoring the 'One Big Union,' the 16 associated unions have opposed it openly and vigorously. We have even gone so far as to expel from our organizations members who were found to be affiliated with the 'One Big Union.'"

Radical Alliance Hinted.

"We have gone into this subject very thoroughly, and we have found that the 'One Big Union' is promoted by the I. W. W., and that both organizations are financed in large part by certain private detective agencies supported by employers who, like Mr. Atterbury, desire to

disrupt, and, if possible, destroy Labor organizations. It would be interesting to know how much the Pennsylvania Railroad contributes each year to the industrial Bolshevik.

"If it be true that the 16 associated organizations are not seeking the 'closed shop,' and are consistently fighting the 'One Big Union,' what becomes of Mr. Atterbury's charge that we intend to force the Plumb Plan on the people of the United States through the use of the 'closed shop' and the 'One Big Union.' Of course, it falls to the ground."

Shop Crafts Opposed.

Mr. Johnston contends that Mr. Atterbury's charges were not made in good faith, since adjustment boards to settle grievances would do more to prevent strikes than any anti-strike legislation; and he assigns the following reasons as the motives actuating Mr. Atterbury as his associates:

"First, they want to disrupt Labor organizations, particularly the so-called shop crafts. Prior to the war, some of the railroads, including the Pennsylvania, refused to recognize any Labor organizations except the transportation brotherhoods—the Engineers, the Conductors, the Firemen, Trainmen and Switchmen. They resisted all attempts to organize the shop crafts and the clerical forces.

"Second, Mr. Atterbury and the other railroad executives who are supporting him are endeavoring to prepare the public for the announcement that the Pennsylvania and other railroads have disposed of their shops and transferred their general repair and construction business to outside concerns, such as the Baldwin Locomotive Works.

"If the Pennsylvania and the other roads are permitted to consummate their plans, they will pay these concerns whatever they see fit for doing the work which can now be performed in the railroad shops."

HARE VOTE SYSTEM

AGREED TO

By a vote of 8 to 1, the Montreal charter commission has decided to approve of a charter amendment by which all municipal elections shall be held under the system of proportional representation by the single transferable vote, and based on the Hare system.

The clause on nominations and elections, as submitted by the subcommittee on general administration, read as follows:

"Section 1. At all municipal elections for the election of councillors to be held under the authority of this charter, the system of proportional representation by the single transferable vote and based on the Hare system shall be used."

Mr. J. Girard opposed the clause unless it provided that the elector should vote for the full number of

vacancies to be filled in the city council, which would mean the elector must express his choice for nine candidates.

The acting chairman, Mr. Gustav Francq, remarked he would let the elector have preferences up to nine.

Mr. Girard commented this would mean the elector could vote for one candidate if he liked, and what would be the result? asked Mr. Girard. The labor vote, being well organized, Mr. Girard thought their first choice would be elected, and their surplus votes would be used for their second choice, and so on, with the result the proprietors of Montreal would get probably but two representatives elected.

Mr. J. T. Foster said he would vote for the Hare system. Mr. Foster remarked that if Mr. Girard had studied the recent election in Winnipeg where labor was better or-

ganized than in Montreal, he would see that labor only elected its own quota.

The vote on the adoption of the clause was then called with the following result:

Ayes — Messrs. Cape, Evans, Francq, Foster, Kelly, Morin, O'Connell and Senecal—8.

Noes — Mr. Girard.

Lieut.-Col. Rexford asked to be excused from voting.



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## Orleans Congress of French Labor

Vote Showed That Not More Than a Third of Members Have Smallest Leaning Toward the Moscow International.

Paris, France. THE rout of the extremists in the Confederation Generale du Travail, which is the organization that comprises practically all the trade unions in France, was complete at the Congress of Orleans. The final vote showed that not more than a third of the members have the smallest leanings toward Moscow. The issue was clear and the result was equally decisive. French Labor has entered upon a saner path. This result follows upon many others of a similar character which have lately been observed.

Nevertheless it would be wrong to suppose that the extremists will cease their efforts and will come into line with the moderate elements. On the contrary, the minority instantly called a meeting and set up a committee of its own inside the larger organization. It announces that it intends to join up with the Moscow International. It is undaunted by its failure. But it does not propose, although it holds such an entirely different doctrine from the majority of members of the confederation, to separate from it. Nor does it propose to accept its decisions and discipline. This would seem to be an impossible position. One would suppose that the minority must either obey the rulings of the majority or leave the organization.

### Future of Dissidents.

Indeed, it is now a question for the majority to resolve what shall be done with these dissidents, who intend to hold tight and do not disguise the fact that from inside the confederation they mean to start an intense propaganda against the declared objects of the association. The problem of whether they can be allowed to do so must be faced. The minority is quite content to be expelled and it is possible that expulsion awaits it. But this section of rebels throws the onus of such a measure on the majority.

There has rarely been a stormier gathering than that which took place at Orleans. The confederation had come to the parting of the ways. In France, as in many other countries, a great struggle had been wit-

nessed between the more reasonable elements and the extreme elements. The extremists quite frankly desire revolution at any cost without having any very clear idea of what revolution means. The moderates may be considered advanced enough, but at any rate they do believe in reform, in cautious and rational progress.

### Test of Strength.

The test of strength came upon two concrete questions. One has reference to the past. The other has reference to the future. The extremists sought to condemn the officials of the confederation for the failure of the ill-advised strike of last May which was engineered by the revolutionary spirits and which was certainly not encouraged by men like Leon Jouhaux, who is the chief functionary of the confederation. The question which was posed was whether Mr. Jouhaux and his colleagues were deserving of condemnation. The congress answered no.

The second question was whether the confederation should abandon the Syndicalists International of Amsterdam, which is purely a professional body, and join the Third International of Moscow, which is a political or rather revolutionary body proclaiming itself Communist. Once more the vast majority replied emphatically no.

### A Bourgeois Institution.

There are some grievances against Mr. Jouhaux. The extremists call him a traitor because he has been consulted by the government and because he will not support the extra-professional agitation which is meant to lead to revolution. Moreover, he has set up an economic bureau to study labor conditions in a technical manner, and apparently the extremists do not care for such cold, calculating, and efficient methods. Further, he is delegate to the International Labor Bureau of Geneva, an organization which was set up by the Versailles Treaty, and which is directed by Albert Thomas, the well-known Socialist, who is also regarded as a "social traitor" because he accepts a handsome salary from the government and actually

shook hands with Mr. Millerand when the President recently visited Geneva. This bureau, on which workers, employers, and government meet to endeavor to improve the lot of the worker in all countries, is regarded as a bourgeois institution directed against the real interests of the workers. Mr. Jouhaux, however, was completely justified for his action by the majority of the congress.

The principal bone of contention was, however, the eternal question of the Third International. According to the conditions of admission, as laid down by Moscow, all officials who are elegantly described as "yellow" must be dismissed and only revolutionaries who are prepared to accept the instructions of Nicholas Lenine—who, whatever may be his other qualities, shows a strange ignorance of labor conditions in other countries than Russia and seems to have no psychological sense of the western nations—are to have office in French organizations which are admitted to the Moscow International.

### Deepening Division.

These conditions are incredibly stupid and have only the effect of deepening the division between the two schools of thought in the French Syndicalist movement besides splitting the French Socialist Party. All independence of judgment is to be sacrificed; Moscow is to be supreme. Many in France who have defended most fiercely the Russian Revolution revolt against these pretensions of Mr. Lenine.

While the confederation is dominated by such a man as Mr. Jouhaux the government has little to fear. Sometime ago Mr. Millerand threatened to dissolve the confederation but if it is directed by competent officials it is a necessary organization. It provides a safeguard against the vagaries of the revolutionaries. Mr. Millerand did not, indeed, pursue very seriously his campaign against the confederation, which represents the claims and the activities of the working classes.

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## Railroaders' National Cooperative Bank Has Commercial Business

(Written for The Railroader by H. S. ROSS, K.C.)

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Warren S. Stone, one of the ablest leaders of the United States, is President of the bank. W. B. Prenter is Vice-President and Cashier, and W. F. McCaleb is Vice-President and Manager.

The bank pays four per cent. on savings accounts from the day of deposit to the day of withdrawal unless withdrawn within thirty days, and two per cent. is paid on commercial accounts of over \$500. Dividends to stockholders are limited to ten per cent. Surplus earnings are paid into the surplus fund and distributed to depositors.

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"2. Added to this is a surplus of \$100,000. This has been paid in in cash. The bank would have to lose \$2,100,000 before a depositor could lose a cent.

"3. A National Bank in subject to frequent inspection by trained Government examiners. They see to it that the Bank is honestly and conservatively managed. The 20,000,000 depositors in the 8,000 National Banks of the United States have been so carefully protected by the Government that not a single large National Bank has failed during the past three years.

"4. The Brotherhood Bank has taken the following additional precautions. First, no loans or profits of any kind are permitted to any officer or director of the Bank. This is where most bank losses occur. Second, an outside independent registered accountant audits the books of the bank every day. Third, all our employees are bonded by a surety company so that even should defalcation or embezzlement occur, the bank and the depositors cannot lose. Finally, since the Brotherhood Bank limits its dividends to 10 per cent., there is no temptation to take risks.

"5. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is nearly 60 years old. It owns a \$2,500,000 office building in Cleveland that will be turned over to the next General

Convention free of all debt. The Brotherhood has \$184,000,000 of insurance in force in its fraternal insurance organizations; it has paid out \$46,000,000 in claims; its annual disbursements exceed \$4,000,000. It has 85,000 members with whom it does business and from whom it collects large sums each year."

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The by-laws of the bank limit dividends on the capital stock of 10 per cent. The stockholders can never receive more than 10 per cent. The remainder of the earnings go first to the building up of a surplus required by law, which surplus will increase the security of the depositors; and second, the balance of the earnings will be distributed to saving depositors and trust funds on a pro rata basis. In other words, the depositors of the bank are partners in the bank. They share in the earnings. That is one of the principles of co-operation. Co-operation recognizes that those who make a business profitable should share in the profits they create.

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### BOOKS.

Westinghouse E. T. Air-Brake Instruction Pocket-book Catechism. By Wm. W. Wood, Air-Brake Instructor. A practical work containing examination questions and answers on the E. T. Equipment. Covering what the E. T. Brake is. How it should be operated. What to do when defective. Not a question can be asked of the engineman up for promotion on either the No. 5 or the No. 6 E. T. equipment that is not asked and answered in the book. If you want to thoroughly understand the E. T. equipment get a copy of this book. It covers every detail. Makes air-brake troubles and examinations easy. Fully illustrated with colored plates, showing various pressures. Cloth. 1920 edition. Published by Norman W. Henley Publishing Co. Price, \$2.50. Buy it through the Canadian Railroader.

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## Census as Aid to Educational Study

(Gazette, Dec. 14.)

A DELEGATION representing the Federated Committee of Education is to wait upon the Charter Commission to-morrow and urge the inclusion in the new civic charter of a clause calling for an annual census. It was agreed at a meeting of the Federated Committee held at the Windsor Hotel last night that if a statistical knowledge of the number of children in Montreal who did not attend school either through lack of facility or the apathy of parents and guardians were known, the education problem of Montreal would be placed on a basis where solution would be more practicable. Through an annual census, while the information acquired could be applied in many different directions, the cause of education would be vastly benefitted. At the previous meeting held a fortnight ago resolutions embodying this proposal were adopted and last night on the election of an executive committee arrangements were made for placing the question in a concrete and forceful manner before the commission.

That the census should be complete and not sectarian was considered indispensable if the objects were to be attained. On this point the meeting was not wholly optimistic. Rev. Dr. E. I. Rexford, who was present on invitation and signified his willingness to accompany the delegation, believed that a big obstacle would be encountered in the shape of financial considerations. A revelation of the total number of children who were deprived through various reasons of education, might be so disconcerting, he said, that the authorities might hesitate to court it, in view of the tremendous monetary problem which would be involved. Mrs. Henry Joseph also anticipated opposition from the Catholics, who, as it was previously explained, were in a satisfactory position through parochial organization regarding statistics. On the other hand, Prof. Carrie M. Derick was disposed to expect sympathy and assistance from that quarter and was of the opinion that the authorities could not fail of appreciating the seriousness of the situation.

When Mr. James Cleghorn, who presided until the newly elected vice-president, Mr. W. C. R. Anderson, took the chair, stated that the whole educational system of the province was in danger of collapse through ineffective administration, Mrs. John Scott, of the Montreal Women's Club, suggested that it would be a blessing if it did and advocated the consigning of the whole structure to the scrap heap, as totally inadequate and antiquated. Statistics quoted by Mr. Anderson which went to show glaring inequalities in the disposition and application of pro-

vincial grants in relation to particular schools evoked support for the sentiment expressed by Mrs. Scott. Mr. Anderson, in advocating close study of educational finance, commended the technical school system now in operation, but contended that it did not serve its purpose through lack of students. He also expressed the opinion that the provincial government's contribution to elementary education was quite insufficient.

Copies of the resolutions passed at the previous meeting had in the interval been forwarded to 149 different organizations in the city with a request for consideration. Time had not permitted of replies being received. The reasons advanced in support of the proposal that an annual census should be instituted were the definite information which would be provided as to the number of children to whom the present system gave no educational facilities, and would reveal how rapidly the number was growing; would give information as to the number of illiterates; would serve as a guide in selecting school sites and the size of buildings; would supply the number and location of physical and mental defectives; would be a means of safeguarding and promoting health; would supply information in respect of foreigners; and finally it would be in accordance with the present school law, which demands such a census, but which through removable circumstances was inoperative. For this information to be efficiently and completely secured, however, it was absolutely necessary that it be thoroughly comprehensive and consequently could only be properly carried out by the City of Montreal, and not by a sectarian institution, such as the Protestant Board of School Commissioners, who had neither the staff, machinery nor money to devote to the purpose.

That the law requiring registration of birth was not being observed either through ignorance or apathy, and that records were not being maintained by the authorities, was the contention of several speakers. This condition was an additional obstacle in the path of education since it helped to cloud statistics, and one which the proposed census would serve to offset.

Mr. Harry Bragg, representing the Association of School Commissioners, Montreal District, drew the attention of the meeting to the financial difficulties which are besetting the cities of Outremont and Verdun, and asked the sympathy of the Federated Committee in their efforts to obtain a readjustment in the taxation system. The complaint of the Protestants of those municipalities, as presented by Mr. Bragg, is that

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large numbers are tenants in houses and apartment buildings owned by Roman Catholic landlords, and are thus indirectly paying taxes to the Catholic School Board. Through this condition the average cost to 460 Protestant ratepayers of Outremont for the education of 480 children of such tenants was \$69.97. The remedy suggested, and which has been promised consideration by the provincial treasurer, was that all rented properties should be added to the neutral panel, a more equitable division of taxation thus resulting.

The nominating committee reported that there had been no decision as to the selection of a president for the committee. A name would be submitted at a future meeting. The other officers chosen were: Vice-president, Mr. W. C. R. Anderson; secretary, Mr. W. P. Hughes; executive, Mrs. Walter Lyman, Mrs. W. C. Hodgson, Prof. Carrie M. Derick, Mrs. T. deG. Stewart, Miss Isabel Brittain, Messrs. James Cleghorn, J. A. Woodward, C. McFarlane, M. Hirsch, E. A. Cunningham and Canon A. P. Shatford.

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GEORGE PIERCE, Editor

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## That Production Puzzle

EDITORIALY newspapers are still urging the need of increased production as a remedy for our troubles, while their news columns report the curtailment of production, all along the line. The logic of this is on a par with that of Charles Lamb's Chinaman who burnt down a house in order to obtain the delivery of roast pig.

The London Times, commenting on the industrial outlook, says: "New production and a stoppage of inflation are the only remedies. Labor is beginning to realize, by the growing volume of unemployment, that an inflated wage is a twin sister to a vanishing job. Wages are already beginning to come down in the United States and England; but, as prices fall, labor should find no difficulty in accepting a nominal reduction of wages, if the lower wages will purchase the same quantity of goods. . . . The most urgent necessity of the economic situation is a conscious co-operative effort on the part of Labor and Capital to secure a reduction in costs of production and a consequent fall in prices as will enable demand to revive."

The Thunderer is always profound, and sometimes wise, but if we accept its view—which is repeated ad nauseam in other journals—then labor is always more or less on the horns of a dilemma. If, as the Times intimates, the object of increasing production is to reduce wages, why should labor be particularly interested in increasing production? Or if labor is able to buy the same quantity of goods with low wages as with high wages, why should labor oppose reductions of wages? The solemn mumbo-jumbo logic of the Times rests on the assumption that labor is a commodity, and that its price must be governed by the laws that regulate the price of other commodities.

That would be all very well if the laborer and his family were also commodities, and could be put in cold storage when the market was dull. Unfortunately, the laborer cannot be disassociated from his labor, and rightly or wrongly he believes that the more wages he receives the greater will be the demand for commodities, and also for his services to produce commodities. That is why the worker is little interested in the argument of the free traders that protective tariffs increase the costs of production. Low prices are no attraction if the worker does not have the money to buy.

The Times assumes that if production is increased and wages and prices deflated labor will be as well off as it was during the period of business inflation and rising prices and wages. It is a notorious fact that during eras "of progress and prosperity,"

wages do not rise as fast as the cost of living, probably for the reason that labor is one commodity which does not lend itself readily to the application of combine tactics. Prof. Fisher of Yale said some time ago: "If it were true that the increasing demands of labor unions, by increasing the cost of producing commodities, had resulted in a general increase of prices, these would surely have risen more slowly than wages. The facts, however, show that the cost of living has increased about twice as fast as wages, and this seems to be approximately the rule during any period of rising prices. In other words, during rising prices the laborer is the loser. In fact, his strikes and insistent demands for higher wages represent a belated effort to overtake the advancing cost of living."

If labor loses during periods of progress and prosperity when prices are rising, and also has to accept lower wages or no wages at all during periods of depression when prices are falling, his lot in any case is rather unfortunate. But undoubtedly labor prefers periods of business inflation to periods of business depression; and the explanation is not far to seek. When business is expanding there is more employment, greater independence and security of livelihood; and large numbers are able to increase their earnings by working over-time. Statistics prove conclusively that capital during periods of expansion makes larger relative gains than labor; but undoubtedly labor prefers such periods—even if extra work is necessary to obtain any advantages. Similarly labor seems to prefer protection because of the belief that it provides more employment.

But if as the statistics of the American Department of Labor and Bradstreets show, wages during the recent period of expansion only increased half as fast as the cost of living, is it fair, now that prices are being deflated, to ask labor to accept immediate reductions of wages, or to throw the labor out of employment? If the system can offer labor nothing better, it is high time business men seriously tackled the problem of reorganizing the system of production with a view to assuring the people a comfortable livelihood.

—Colin McKay.

## Fighting With Babies

"WE are willing to fight them with babies." This is not the utterance of a savage or a confessedly blood-thirsty person, but the reported observation of an ordinary citizen of Toronto not long ago. There was some difficulty about the amount to be charged for milk by the Toronto producers to the retailers, and the Board of Commerce had issued a ruling fixing said price around 8½c. per quart instead of around 10c. as had been the intention of the producers. The result was a threat to cut off the milk supply altogether, and the secretary of the Toronto Milk Producers' Association was reported as having given vent to his indignation as per above humane pronouncement.

Now the latest scientific investigation has reaffirmed once again that milk is still far and away the most nourishing and wholesome food for human beings. In the case of infants nothing can take its place. Infants who have access to a good and plentiful supply of fresh milk have the best chance of becoming healthy and useful citizens. Yet apparently we can devise nothing better at this time of day than to leave this indispensable commodity at the mercy of people who talk coolly of withholding it altogether if their profits are interfered with.

As stated above the dispute hinged on whether or not the producers were to be allowed to increase their price to the retailers from around 8½c. per quart to around 10c. The retailers had in the meantime raised their rates from, roughly, 14c. per quart, to nearly 17c. per quart—that is, 12 one-pint tickets were being sold for a dollar instead of 14. Toronto retailers of milk, like those of Montreal, apparently conduct business on a profitable basis. Meantime the Quebec farmer gets 7c. per quart from the retailer; the householder pays 14c. and 15c. I drew attention to this in the Railroader some time ago. For the service rendered the retail price seems out of all reason.

Could the city not handle its own milk supply on a better and cheaper basis? Does it really take such a vast amount of brains and organization to sell milk? If this threat about fighting with babies had been voiced by a Labor leader one can fancy the torrent of wrath which would have descended. But if babies will come into conflict with private profit-making, then babies must just take the consequences.

—George Daniels.



### Do You Know?

- THAT 25,000 babies under one years of age die annually in Canada?
- THAT 2,000 mothers lose their lives from conditions caused by childbirth each year in Canada?
- THAT five times as many babies die in the first month of life as in the second, and fourteen times as many as in the twelfth?
- THAT at least 60 per cent. of the infant mortality and 90 per cent. of the maternal mortality is preventable?
- THAT the reason for most of our infant mortality is that the Canadian mothers were NOT given proper care and protection during the months of pregnancy?
- THAT we pile up this black monument because we allow our Canadian mothers to be underfed, or overworked, or both; because we allow them to struggle along without necessary medical and nursing care?
- THAT in Quebec Province in 1919 there were 35,170 deaths among all ages, of which 15,331 were confined to the first four years of life?
- THAT while tuberculosis caused the deaths of 3,196 among all ages in Quebec Province. "Diarrhoea" (ignorance of how to feed babies) killed 4,365 babies under 2 years of age?
- THAT out of 100 babies conceived, 62 are likely to be born alive at full term, 38 will die unborn, or prematurely, or unfit, or will die in infancy?
- THAT among women from 15 to 45 years of age, child-bearing (as is it tolerated to-day) causes more deaths than any disease or groups of diseases?
- THAT there is also a shameful, because unnecessary, amount of ill health of mothers following childbirth when same is past?
- THAT whereas Quebec Province in 1919 was carelessly losing 142 babies under one year old out of each 1,000 born, that Great Britain permitted only 78 such to die, the United States 87, New Zealand 48; in short, that the Quebec infant mortality rate closely approximated in 1919 the infant death rate among Negroes in the United States?
- THAT the infant mortality rate is the most sensitive index of the social conscience and sanital status of a given community or state?
- THAT the intelligence and the conscience of Canadians are challenged by the above figures?

#### WHAT DO YOU CARE?

W. A. L. STYLES, M.D.,  
Baby Welfare Committee, Montreal.

### Individuals Don't Count

TRADE union opponents imagine they deliver a telling blow when they point to some wage earner who has risen to executive station.

"This is proof," say our opponents, "that there is room at the top; that the workers have no need for unions if they are industrious and would strive to advance."

Our opponents forget—if they ever knew—that trade unionism is intended to improve conditions on the job.

If one worker in a plant employing 100 is advanced to high position, or if the impossible happened and the 100 workers were advanced, the jobs and the poor working conditions would still remain. The necessity for trade unionism would still exist.

Trade unionism is a mass movement.

It is not intended to make success for the few possible, but to advance workers as a whole by improving the jobs.

When a building is raised, the entire structure is slowly lifted at the same time.

The trade union movement is the jack screw on which wage earners rest. Through this force the wage earners, as a mass, are steadily pushed up, up, up.

When wages are increased it means better homes, food and clothing for the worker and his family, and education for the children. When hours are shortened it means longer life, mental development, a little recreation and relief from the dull monotony of standing before a machine. These result in a higher standard of citizenship.

When sanitary conditions in the shops are secured it means less disease.

The prosperity of an individual worker is nothing in this great humanizing, uplift movement, except where that individual takes advantage of his improved position to urge the cause of justice for the mass, to plead for a larger liberty, to protest against debasing working conditions—to demand that the jobs be bettered.

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### The "Open Shop" Drive

The drive is on for the "open shop" in the United States.

There are 540 organizations in 247 cities of 44 states engaged in promoting the "open shop." In addition to the above organizations there are 665 Chambers of Commerce pledged to this fight.

The "open shop" survey discloses that the state of New York has 55 associations, Illinois 54, Ohio 50, Pennsylvania 45, Michigan 29, Indiana 21, California 25, Texas 20, Wisconsin 21, Iowa 15, New Jersey 17, and other states all represented in smaller numbers.

A press association, called the American Press Bureau, with headquarters in Chicago, has been formed to carry on the publicity end of the drive.

Last week, the American Federation of Labor sent out a letter from headquarters in Washington, warning labor of the insidious attempt being made to fill children's minds against labor organization, through text books issued for use in the schools. Among the text books issued to the Tilden High School, Chicago, is one in "First Year English," in which the following subjects are asked to be debated by the children, "Of what good is the trade union to the laborer?" "Labor troubles are brought about because the poor ape the rich," and "Strikes should be declared illegal," the books says.

The forces back on the "open shop" drive are circulating school teachers, offering to furnish pamphlets and literature dealing with the labor problem.

### Child Labor in Canada

(Citizen, Ottawa.)

THE investigations of the tariff commission now drawing to a close have revealed many diverse opinions regarding the form of fiscal policy best suited for the Dominion. The commission was instituted for that purpose, of course, and it is not proposed to enter into a discussion of the sincerity of the administration in appointing such a body. But the tariff hearings have been instructive in that they have brought to light many industrial conditions not hitherto suspected and have disclosed methods of manufacturing and of obtaining raw materials not shown in the ordinary way.

One disclosure that has made a deep impression concerns the textile industry. Both in Three Rivers and Montreal the heads of large textile plants admitted that child labor was common in their mills, and that children from 9 years of age to 14 were paid small wages for toiling in these industries. This is a matter that should be, and doubtless will be, taken up in due course by the proper authorities. It reflects on the Dominion as a whole and marks the beginning of an industrial condition that should not be permitted to gain a foothold in any enlightened community.

Statistics show that in the United States, where there has been an energetic campaign against child labor for many years, the number of such workers is nevertheless steadily increasing. In the first six or eight months of the present year the number of children applying for permits in New York city was over 5,200 more than in the same period last

year, but that number is now falling off. Yet the net increase is over 13,000, while in Minnesota there has been an increase of 193 per cent. since 1915. These are serious figures and lay the northern states open to much the same reproach as was directed against the southern parts of the country a few years ago when measures to abolish child labor in the cotton mills were before congress and many shocking disclosures made by advocates of these humanitarian attempts.

There are several aspects to the child labor problem that are worth discussing. Taking the least important of these first, it is clear that child labor means less adult employment, and the indications are that unemployment will be more general in the country this winter than for a long time past. But there are other and far more important reasons why this system should not be permitted in Canada. The place for every Canadian child, up to 16 at least, is in school. It is shown in the United States that by mothers' pensions, child labor scholarships and other devices it is possible that even poor children may be kept in school until that period. The child who goes to work at 14, to say nothing of the little ones who have not attained even that age, has an earning capacity at 25 just one-half that of the child who stays at school until he is 18; the child who goes to work at 14 is twice as liable to illness and injury as the child who stays in school. In fact, the loss to the nation in health, efficiency and happiness created by premature employment is incalculable. Mr. Hoover recently declared that child labor was "poisoning the springs of the nation at its wells."



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## There is no Danger of Revolution in England

By "Montrealais."

THERE will be no revolution in England. A close study of the British trade union movement, and first hand conversations with types of the British working man, have fully convinced me of this fact. And the reason is, British labor has too much of a stake in the country to afford the consequences of an industrial and political upheaval. An added, and important, factor is the huge British middle class—for England is still a nation of shopkeepers,—and this mass of the population on the borders of both capital and labor has a real stabilizing effect on the politics and economies of the country.

The labor standpoint, apart from that of a small "Red" minority dubbed the "ginger" group, which carries no real weight with the community, might well be given in the words of a trade union printer I talked with the other day. This man is employed in the composing room of a big provincial daily, and is a Socialist adhering to the principles of the Second International, which, summed up, are socialization of industry through the ballot. Because of his Socialism he is dubbed a Bolshevik by his fellow comps., so that in quoting him I am not airing the views of some hide-bound trade-unionist of the old school.

"We won't have a revolution in England," he told me, "because we have too much at stake, and we are

too contented. We grouse a good deal, but that is only because we want more money, like everyone else, and our grouching won't go to the length of a revolution for the simple reason that we stand to lose too much by it. Look at my own case. I have got most of my savings invested in War Loan, and I'm not going to run the risk of losing them by crying for a revolution."

And there is the case in a nutshell. Despite unemployment and the high cost of living, which is about as high in England as in Canada, the mass of the people are too comfortable to desire, much less to actively bring about, a revolution. It is, after all, the old English spirit of compromise: "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," might almost be taken as the national slogan. It is this spirit, together with the fact that, bad as are the conditions of the workers in England, their life is not intolerable, that makes the much discussed social revolution in Britain an impossibility.

### REMEMBERED.

Teacher—Do you know, Tommy, when shingles first came into use?  
Tommy—I think when I was between 5 and 6 years old, ma'am.

### AT THE FOOD SHOW.

To cook the cheaper cuts of meat  
Is well to learn, I own;  
Still, I'd prefer to know the street  
Where cheaper cuts are shown.

THIS  
WATERMARK



LIKE THE HALL MARK ON SILVER IS THE  
WATERMARK IN PAPER

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## Only Basis For Internationalism

"Enduring internationalism must have a religious basis," was the statement made by the Rev. Dr. Symonds in preaching at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, on Dec. 12, "and the religious foundation must be of the simplest and broadest description." The conception of internationalism was first given to the world through the medium of the Hebrew prophets, previous to which time each nation had believed in national deities who were hostile to outside nations. The rector argued that Jesus Christ had taken this broader view, and that it had cost him his life. The attitude of Jesus to all with whom He came in contact was unaffected by either nationality or religion, and there was no record of Him having sought to convert an outsider to the Jewish religion. "If we are really seeking to know the mind of Jesus, we must ask not only what church councils of hundreds of years ago or later have said about Him, but what Jesus

would do if He were walking our streets. Would He have gone about telling Roman Catholics that they were wrong, or Methodists that they were wrong, and Anglicans that they were right? We can only say that He never did talk in that way when He was on earth. Why then, should we suppose that He would do so now?"

It was this attitude of mind, this freedom from race and denominational prejudice, that should bring forth the spirit of internationalism, said Dr. Symonds. No constitution of a league of nations, important and necessary as it was, no mechanical frame, could ensure real internationalism unless there were such an attitude and until it permeated the whole structure. That was why the upon the balance of power, had old alliances of the past based always failed. The spirit that animated them had been the spirit of self-interest, or sometimes the spirit of fear, a very rotten foundation upon which to build a real peace.

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## THE Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

Its Only Aim Is The Welfare Of The Masses

THE people of a nation cannot advance beyond the men who make its laws, and the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada exists to see to it that the workers by hand and brain are directly represented in the law-making bodies of the Dominion; to find, train, and elect the right men of our own class in order to secure the kind of legislation that will protect and advance the interests of the workers.

It will wage warfare on plutocracy, despotism, economic privileges, and upon all the evil forces which burden the people and rob them of that happiness of living which is their fundamental right.

It is a non-partisan educational and political association, and because of the manner in which it is organized can never become the instrument or plaything of a small group of any class, particularly of wealthy men. The aim is the attainment of true democracy.

### WE PLEDGE OURSELVES:—

To support all municipal, provincial and federal educational laws where the evident purpose is to raise the standard of education in enlightened and progressive ways; to present truthfully and fearlessly through the medium of Fifth Sunday Meetings and our own press, the "Canadian Railroader", the latest and most important political, social and industrial developments;

To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxation from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker, according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

To advocate freedom of speech and of the press, and a law compelling all newspapers and periodicals to publish in all issues a complete list of shareholders and bondholders.

"The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada" is financed entirely by its members who contribute \$2 a year in membership fees. If a local has been established in your city \$1 remains in the local treasury and the other dollar is sent by the local organization to our Dominion Headquarters, 316 Lagachetiere St., west, Montreal. In case no local has been established in your community, send the membership fee of \$2 directly to Dominion Headquarters.

The funds accumulating in the Dominion Headquarters are used for political and educational propaganda; the development of the organization; the preparation of pamphlets and leaflets and the financing of the various political campaigns where favorable opportunities develop, to elect our candidates. The Treasurer is under bond and the books are audited by a firm of accountants.

An application blank will be found below. Merely fill out the application blank, buy a postal order for \$2 and send it to Dominion Headquarters. Your membership card will be forwarded by return mail. Join this great organization in the interests of education and clean politics. To-day is the day and this is the hour. Become a member now.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Secretary,

The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada.

General Headquarters, 316 Lagachetiere Street, West,  
corner of Beaver Hall Hill, MONTREAL.

I hereby make application for membership in "The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada" I subscribe and agree to pay while a member, the yearly sum of \$2.00 in advance.

Name.....

Amount Paid \$..... Address.....

Date..... City.....

Province.....

Make all cheques and money orders payable to "The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada."

Official membership card will be mailed from headquarters with a copy of platform, constitution and general rules.



## SIDE-LINES

By KENNEDY CRONE

MARGARET CURRIE in the Star offers a few carefully-selected recipes for Christmas puddings. Evidently Margaret assumes that prohibition is quite a joke, for one of the recipes calls for a good whack of brandy and another for a stiff jorum of rum. It is odd enough to read on one page of the Star that a Government inspector will grab you if you try to buy "hard stuff" without a doctor's prescription, and on another page have the Star advised you to include "hard stuff" in your Christmas pudding.

However, with brandy and rum at five dollars a bottle, few of the plum puddings east of Park avenue and south of St. Catherine street are likely to be a la Margaret Currie. One of the plum pudding recipes also demands the inclusion of eight eggs, but that sort of demand is likely to be ignored, too.

Perhaps some of the high-paid journalists on the Star can afford Christmas puddings with rum and brandy and eight eggs. My own private guess is that most of them will still swear by beef stoo and hamburger mysteries, with a side dish of string beans on pay-day.

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### Caring For the Dog.

A dog with spectacles was shown at the annual fair of the Animal Rescue League at Boston, on Dec. 6, as an example of humanitarian assistance to our dumb friends. The animal was Nemo, a spaniel of high degree and companion to the family of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Allen of Marlborough. Riding in an open automobile on windy days had weakened his eyes, it was explained, and goggles were prescribed and fitted by an oculist. At the same time thousands of new-born children in central Europe are being wrapped in newspapers because there are no clothes to protect them from the frost. It is also quite probable that children are dying in Boston because their parents cannot supply them with good milk. It's a strange world.

### THOSE PENCIL MARKS.

"Who was it saw the handwriting on the wall, Bobby?" asked the teacher.

"The landlord," replied the boy who lives in a flat.—Boston Transcript.

### MOST UNUSUAL.

"The cost of living must be coming down."

"Why do you think so?"

"I've got a nickel left from my last week's pay." — Boston Transcript.

### SAFETY FIRST.

"Are you the plumber?" asked Mrs. Cooke.

"Yes, ma'am, I'm the plumber, all right."

"Well," she replied, "I just want to caution you to exercise care when doing your work. All my floors are highly polished and in perfect condition."

"Oh, don't worry about me slipping, lady; I've got nails in me shoes."



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Those British "Journalists" who joy-rid Canada last summer must have some appetites. Not content with having banquets everywhere from Halifax to Victoria and back again, they had to wind up with a "Canadian dinner" in London. They may not be much as newspaper men, but as gormandizers they are in a class by themselves.—"Jack Canuck."

### DISCOVERED AT LAST.

From a Wall street explosion story in The Plain Dealer, Turp N. Tyne excerpts this paragraph:

"At the police station the cigars Fischer picked up were examined and found to contain nothing but tobacco."

Turp inquires very anxiously for the name of these cigars. He says he can't get any of that sort at any price these days.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Hamilton, Ont., expects building of moderate-priced homes to be resumed on a large scale next spring.

# Loew's

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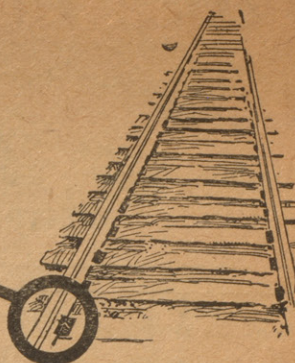
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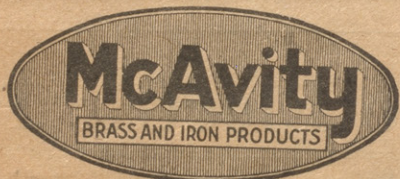
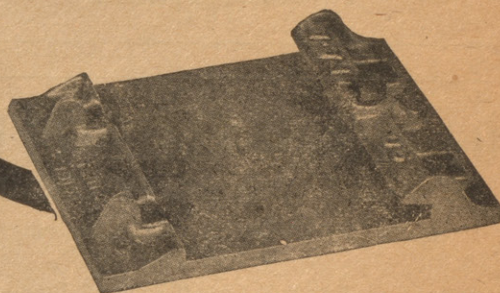
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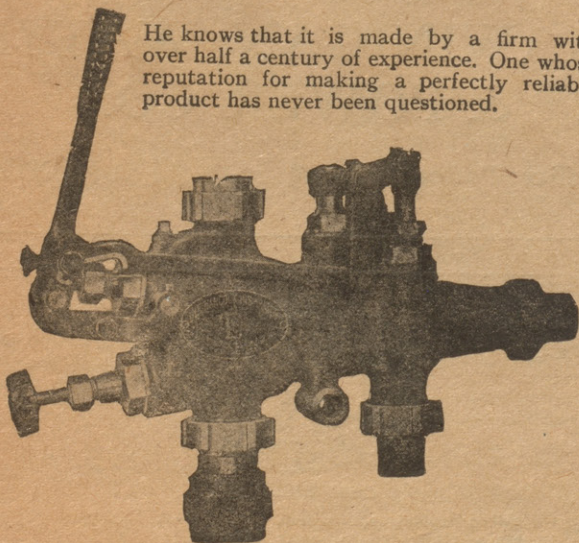
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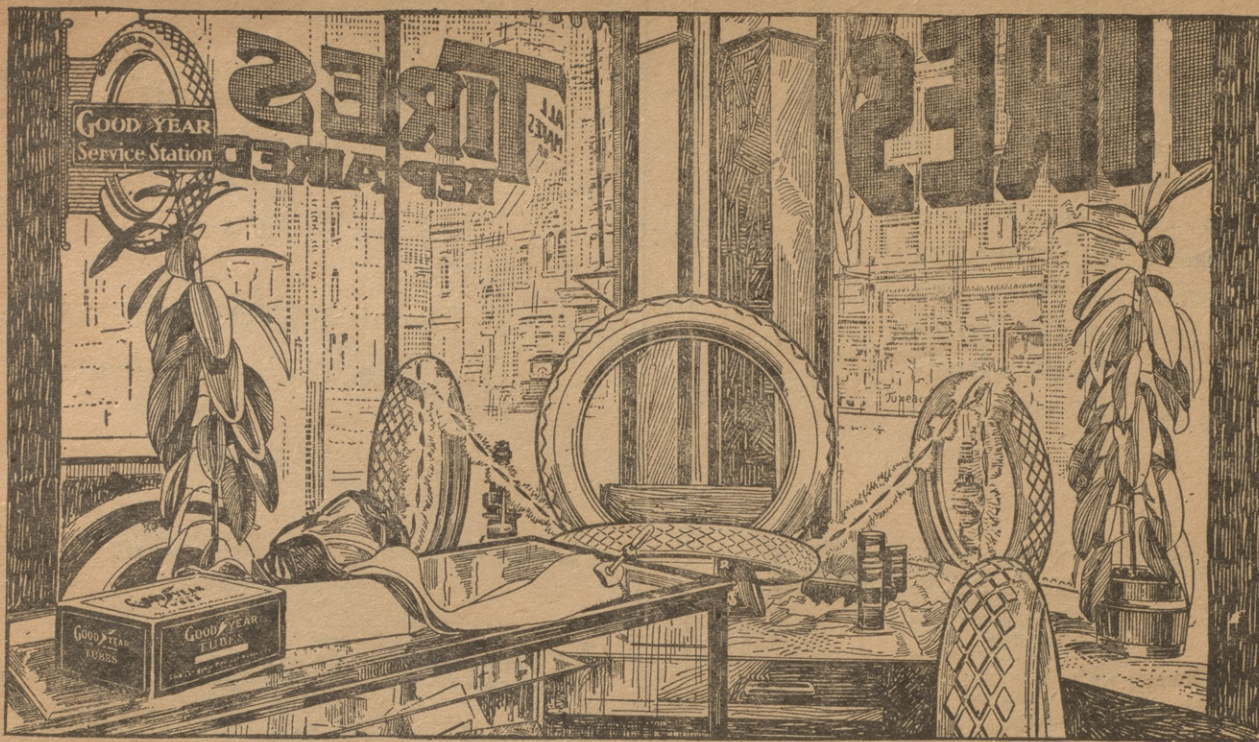
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